

A NEW HELMINTHOGLYPTA FROM THE EAST  
SLOPE OF THE SIERRA NEVADA, CALIFORNIA

By G. WILLETT

Pl. 20, Figs. *a*, *b* and *c*.

Conchologists of California have frequently commented on the fact that no helicoid snail has been known to occur along the desert slope of the southern Sierra Nevada. Therefore it was with much interest that the writer learned that, during the past winter, Mr. Morris E. Caruthers had received a specimen of *Helminthoglypta* from that region. This shell, an adult in good condition, though lacking most of the epidermis, was picked up by Mrs. Vernon L. Carr, of Inyokern, at an altitude of about 7,000 feet in Morris Canyon, a branch of Indian Wells Canyon, Kern County, California, during the early part of the past winter.

On March 25, 1934, Mr. Caruthers and the writer drove to the locality where Mrs. Carr had found the specimen, and camped. A diligent search of the mountain side, which was quite steep, and well covered with oak and piñon trees, was made during the afternoon and again the following morning. A very few fragments, too small to be of value, were brought to light, and Mr. Caruthers was fortunate enough to find one living specimen, about two-thirds grown and in perfect condition. It was adherent to a small stick in a tangle of debris in a gully on the mountain side. This specimen, together with the one found by Mrs. Carr, clearly show this snail to be very different from any species known to the writer, and it is, therefore, here named and described. The dead shell, being fully adult, is used as the type and from it the measurements are taken. The description of color, sculpture, etc. are from the paratype, No. 6562 collection of Morris E. Caruthers.

*Helminthoglypta caruthersi*, sp. nov. Description: Shell large, flattened, openly umbilicated, the inner lip slightly reflected over the umbilicus. Aperture broadly extended, considerably wider than high; lip thin, narrowly reflected, somewhat deflected between the shoulder and the suture; columellar margin dilated. Color yellowish brown with narrow chestnut-brown band at the shoulder (about 1½ millimeters wide). Spiral sculpture absent; growth wrinkles rather prominent, though uneven and closely spaced. Entire surface covered with fine papillations which are somewhat worn off on the earlier whorls. Color of animal, drab; spotted, dashed and scrawled with chocolate-brown.

Type: No. 1039 collection Los Angeles Museum, collected by Mrs. Vernon L. Carr at about 7,000 feet altitude in Morris Canyon, Kern Co., California. Measurements of type in millimeters: Greater diameter, 27.5; altitude, 13.4; width of aperture, 14.2; altitude of aperture, 12.

Remarks: This species is evidently of the desert group of *Helminthoglyptas*, of which *H. fisheri* (Bartsch) and *H. mohavcana* Berry are examples. In general features it is, perhaps, closest to the last named, but differs from it in much larger size, more depressed form, flaring aperture, deflected lip, and duller surface.

The writer takes pleasure in naming this species for Mr. Morris E. Caruthers, through whose energy much has been learned regarding the distribution of many of our west American shells.

Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California,  
April 27, 1934.



a.



b.



c.

PLATE 20

*Helminthoglypta caruthersi* Willett. Natural size.